

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05802 210937Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /046 W
-----211105Z 121535 /10
R 201640Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5802

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, XA, NI
SUBJECT: U.S. NAVY SHIP VISITS TO WEST AFRICA

REF: (STATE 6910 (DTG 122045Z JAN), (B) 76 LAGOS 4424 (DTG
131505Z APR)

1. REFTEL A INDICATED THAT NEXT ROUND OF U.S. NAVY SHIP
VISITS TO WEST AFRICA WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR.
EMBASSY HAS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT LAGOS WOULD BE PRIME CANDIDATE AS
ONE OF THE PORTS OF CALL. WE BELIEVE THAT WITH RADICALLY IMPROVED
U.S./NIGERIAN RELATIONS SUCH A VISIT WOULD NOW RPT NOW BE
TIMELY AND SHOULD MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO RELATIONS.
SOVIET AND FRENCH NAVAL SHIPS HAVE MADE VISITS IN LAST TWELVE
MONTHS.

2. REACTION OF NIGERIAN NAVY OFFICIALS TO OUR RECENT INFORMAL
SOUNDINGS HAS BEEN POSITIVE; THEY WOULD CLEARLY WELCOME A
VISIT. AS FORMAL FMG CLEARANCE IS A TIME CONSUMING EXERCISE,
WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT SHIP VISIT COULD BE SCHEDULED
IN THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER TIME FRAME SO THAT WE CAN BEGIN PROCESS OF
SEEKING FMG APPROVAL. THE SOONER WE CAN OBTAIN THE GO-AHEAD THE
BETTER PREPARED WE WILL BE FOR THE VISIT SINCE MUCH OF THE
PLANNING MUST AWAIT FINAL NIGERIAN CLEARANCE. MOREOVER, GIVEN
SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO COORDINATE A SHIP
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VISIT HERE WITH A DANJUMA OR OBASANJO VISIT TO THE U.S.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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